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MARINES RECAPTURING SEA-WARFARE SKILLS



According to a recent article by the National Defense Magazine, President Obama has said the United States will not put any boots on the ground in Libya, but if a decision were made to send forces, most likely they would be U.S. Marines. "They would not be storming the beach à la Guadalcanal. But they would be conducting the modern version of an amphibious assault: Marines aboard ships dozens of miles off the coast would load up their equipment on landing craft, helicopters and MV-22 Ospreys, reach the shore and push their

way inland, while trying to avoid enemy landmines, booby traps and snipers," the article states. Marines leaders believe this form of warfare is in the Corps' future and although it

may not happen in Libya, it can take place elsewhere. Although there are still 21,000 Marines fighting in Afghanistan, the Corps is betting that its next conflict will not be a land-locked counterinsurgency. In the coming years, senior commanders want Marines to start training for amphibious assaults and for life at sea.

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LEANING ON AMPHIBS, JOINT STRIKE FIGHTERS

Continuing to prove their value during current operations, the AV-8B Harriers are often the right equipment for the job...and can be in the right place, at the right time. Earlier this year, as part of the Libya mission, U.S. Marine AV-8B Harriers launched from the sea were among the first aircraft to strike targets in support of the U.N. operation to protect civilians. In a recent commentary, Lt. Gen. Emerson N. Gardner (Ret., USMC)



proposed that "what needed is a modest number of fixed-wing sorties delivering precision munitions on the right target at the right time coupled with the capability to conduct a variety of other tasks." He added: "Amphibious ships that include a 2,000-man Marine Expeditionary Unit equipped with infantrymen, helicopters and logistics are actually better suited for these kinds of missions than a seven-to-10-ship, 10,000-man carrier battle group." Gardner also said that the F-35B is crucial for future operations. Even though it costs more per aircraft than the F18E/F, the value is worth it -- "the U.S. will nearly double its strike-capable capital ships (there are nine amphibious assault ships, with plans to go to 11), making the fleet more effective in more places for less money long into the 21st century," he explained.

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HERO

CEDAR GROVE MARINE RECEIVES AWARD FOR HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN



During a ceremony on Sept. 30, Sgt. James. E. Connelly was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device. On June 29, eight Marines were wounded when enemy combatants attacked the squad with grenades and small-arms fire while the Marines were manning an observation post in Sangin, Afghanistan. Connelly, the squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, quickly administered first aid to the injured then boldly counterattacked the enemy with a small element of Marines while awaiting the arrival of casualty evacuation vehicles. He continued to direct suppressive fire against the enemy as the vehicles arrived, allowing the wounded to be evacuated. The 24-year-old Connelly, a graduate of

Cedar Grove High School in Cedar Grove, N.J., said he felt honored and privileged to receive the award, and he feels 1/5's Marines helped make Sangin a safer place during the battalion's deployment.

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NEWS

PURSUING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN AFGHANISTAN



Many Marine Corps bases in Helmand Province run on large amounts of fossil fuel. In August, the Corps used more than 219 thousand gallons per day in Afghanistan. Marines are seeking ways to lower fuel consumption to increase combat effectiveness. Patrol Base Boldak is home to the latest in the Corps' pursuit of efficient and alternative energy carried out through a process known as the Experimental

[Click here to watch a video on expeditionary energy initiatives at Patrol Base Boldak](#)

[Read Also: Marines like solar panels, but want them to be lighter, more portable](#)

[See Also: Regional Command Southwest weekly news round-up](#)

CMC APPROVES WEARING OF MEMORIAL BRACELETS

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, has approved the wearing of memorial bracelets effective Oct. 18. Bracelets memorializing prisoners of war, missing in action, killed in action, and those who died of wounds or injuries sustained in a combat theater are authorized. Last week, the Commandant of the Marine Corps met with his senior leaders at a Marine Corps General Officer Symposium, a group of general officers who make recommendations to the

Commandant. The issue of the bracelets was discussed and the decision was made to allow their wear. "We are acknowledging the close personal nature of our ten years at war and the strong bonds of fidelity that Marines have for one another, especially for those fellow Marines who we have lost," said Amos. Further guidance that details standardization and uniformity will be distributed across the Marine Corps through official correspondence by the end of the week.

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PROGRAM REVOLUTIONIZES BATTERY RECONDITIONING, SAVES MONEY



In a fiscally constrained environment, it is crucial that the Marine Corps be a good steward of taxpayer funds. The Combat Center's Hazardous Waste Management at Twentynine Palms, Calif., is continuing a battery reconditioning program that saves money and helps protect the environment. During the 2011 fiscal year, the battery reconditioning program saved the Combat Center



\$356,520 and more than 990 batteries were reconditioned. "Why would you want to spend the time and resources (energy and money) when you can get batteries for free?" said Dave Budd, an environmental protection specialist with Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division. Budd added, "All they (mechanics) have to do is bring us their dead batteries." Sulfate buildup on battery plates within the plastic housing is the main cause of lead-acid battery problems and failure. However, using various equipment, such as the Pulse Tech HD pallet charger or the World Charger, bench top model, the natural electro-chemical reaction within the battery is

reversed and the batteries can be reused. "If we can keep the vehicles rolling, then the Marines can continue to get the training they need to be successful," said Pat Mills, the supervisor for the HWMS.

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III MEF ASSESSES FLOODING IN THAILAND

On Oct. 15, a humanitarian assistance survey team (HAST) from III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) departed for Bangkok, Thailand, to assess the flooded areas and magnitude of assistance. Flooding resulted from significant rainfall from the monsoon season, affecting 8.2 million people in 61 of 77 provinces in Thailand. The role of the Marine Corps during any humanitarian assistance and disaster response is to rapidly respond with critically needed



capabilities to deliver assistance and relief to the area requiring immediate aid. "This event highlights the responsiveness of III MEF in the Pacific theater," said Colonel John A. Ostrowski, officer in charge of the HAST. "We received word that they may need assistance and now here we are about to board a plane. Like we've done for many years in the Pacific, we are deploying with today's team; today's forces for today's events." The HAST team is

made up of subject matter experts in the fields of aviation, logistics and medicine. The planners took with them approximately 18,000 sandbags to supplement the relief efforts to those in the disaster-stricken areas.

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TROOPS TO TEACHERS HOLDS 'TEACHING AS A SECOND CAREER' SEMINAR



On Sept. 16, more than 30 guests attended the biannual Teaching as a Second Career seminar. The Teaching as a Second Career program assists active duty, retired, discharged and reserve personnel from all branches in becoming teachers. It is run by the Department of Defense and under the supervision and funding of the U.S. Department of Education. According to Illana Gordon, director of administration for Troops to Teachers, since its inception more than 15,000 service members

nationwide have completed the program, 800 of those being Marines. Candidates must meet certain criteria to join the program, but in most cases, active duty service members and reservists are eligible. Individuals should have six years of vocational or technical work experience plus one year of school or a bachelor's degree. In addition to the professional benefits, the Troops for Teachers program also has financial benefits.

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DID YOU KNOW?

MCM ENHANCES SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE WITH MOBILE LOCATOR



The MCM is introducing a new mobile locator web application to enhance the spectator experience. MCM Locator will enable spectators to obtain



directions and approximate distances from their location to various sites along the marathon course. By simply

opening an iPhone or Android phone browser to the website www.mcmlocator.com, spectators can view the location of MCM mile markers, water points, transportation and food stations.

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